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Says Rand Did Secret JFK Study

Anthony Russo, under federal indictment for refusing to testify against Daniel Ellsberg in the Pentagon Papers case, says the Rand Corporation made a study of the assassination of Kennedy and "its classification is higher than top secret."

Writing in the April of Ramparts magazine, Russo says that during his four years at the California research firm, which performs secret government studies, he learned of a file called "Project Star," which only "a handful of Rand people" know about.

Russo worked at Rand from 1964 to 1968, when, he says, he was fired for supposed "budgetary" reasons. He says his ouster was the result of his submitting studies critical of U. S. Vietnam strategy.

In the article, he says the company consistently refuses to make public reports from research in Vietnam which "contain embarrassings stories of atrocities and crimes against humanity," while passing to U. S. military leaders only reports which serve to prolong the war.

He says one such report "was an indictment of Gen. (William) Westmoreland," then head of American forces in Southeast Asia, which circulated "unofficially" but never released.